

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9 will be pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Wilson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,116,384). Claims 1-3 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Philips (U.S. Patent No. 6,206, 934).

Pursuant to a personal interview with the Examiner on November 16, 2004, the Applicant has canceled claims 11 - 22 and has amended claim 1, with the language agreed upon by the Examiner, to claim that the connector has an opening therein which receives the horizontal leg in a direction substantially along the first axis so that the connector is rotatable about the first axis. It is understood that this claim language overcomes the rejections since neither of the references teaches or suggests this type of arrangement. Therefore the Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw all of the rejections and allow all of the claims pending in the application to issue.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 6, 2004

In re Appln. of Todd A. Kuiken
Application No. 09/558,570

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 12-6-04



Mark J. Sweetin

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